

CITY COUNCIL

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September 25, 2017

TO: COUNCIL CHAIR RON MENOR
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER JOEY MANAHAN

SUBJECT: Travel Report on Travel to Denver, Colorado for Rail~Volution 2017

For your information, attached is a travel report summarizing my travel participation in Rail~Volution 2017 in Denver, Colorado during the dates September 17-21, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding the report, you may call me at extension 85007 or email jmanahan@honolulu.gov

Thank you for your consideration.

Travel Report

Rail~Volution 2017

Denver, Colorado

The 2017 Rail Volution Conference was held in Denver, Colorado this year. Denver is experiencing tremendous population growth and relies heavily on its mass transit system to accommodate the city's growing transportation and housing needs. The focus of this year's Rail Volution Conference was on Transit Oriented Development as well as its impacts on communities located within the Regional Transportation District, a 2400 square mile area that Denver's multi-modal mass transportation system serves. This year's conference had a strong focus on striking a balance between gentrification of neighborhoods and preserving local culture while creating new development opportunities for local residents.

The following is my travel report:

Sunday September 17

Conference Registration and Mobile Workshop #7 - Aurora's R Line Intersection of Light Rail and TOD

With RTD's R Line, light rail expanded from a system where all lines served downtown Denver to a system that provides service through the City of Aurora. The R Line connects Aurora to the larger Denver region and also connects key destinations through Aurora. The City of Aurora advocated for deviating the R Line route from highway rights-of-way. The new routing directly serves the city government center and major employers and regional players, such as the Anschutz Medical Campus and new Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Monday September 18

Rail Volution - Opening Plenary Session

Governor John Hickenlooper gave the history of Denver transit and dedicated funding to start the Regional Transportation District (RTD) of Denver. He spoke on the importance of collaboration between counties to build a successful transit system. Denver's transit system is guided by connectivity to create livability and livable cities.

The Governors' Talk was followed by a panel discussion to discuss how Denver has progressed since 2000. Population and growing density effects on transforming the old urban core to create livable communities connected by transit was discussed. Infrastructure investments to connect sports arenas to LoDo and Union Station spurred growth.

Workshop: Displacement Gentrification and TOD: A Done Deal?

Are transit infrastructure investments a one-way ticket to gentrification and displacement? Decades ago, urban centers needed transit investments to attract residents, businesses and visitors. With today's record-breaking urban land prices, what's the story? This workshop takes a

look back at transit investment to understand what's happening today. How does investment affect adjacent neighborhoods? How can we best communicate issues and mitigate unintended outcomes? How do we help long-time residents and businesses benefit from transit investments – small business façade grants, community land trusts? What are strategies for meaningful community engagement? Speakers focused on how transit and TOD can and should evolve to achieve their intended goals.

Mobile Workshop # 15 - Equity Tours the Local View

While development can be exciting, it can also bring up concerns about equity. We chose from three Denver-area neighborhoods – Aurora, Sun Valley and Westminster – recently affected by transit-related development. I chose Aurora for its parallels to Kalihi TOD. Aurora is predominantly where Denver's workforce resides. We explored the topic of equity and transit with Aurora's local community and spoke to community leaders to get their thoughts on their daily commute and how mobility and gentrification affects their quality of life.

Tuesday September 19

Move Oahu Forward arranged a walking tour of the 16th Street Mall of Denver and the Union Station Multi-Modal transit facility attended by local developers and members of Move Oahu Forward. We studied the developments around Union Station as well as the transit corridor that runs up and down the 16th Street Mall. After the walking tour we had a debriefing with Henry Stoppencamp, CFO of Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD), who explained the history of Denver RTD and how TOD was created to spur mobility, connectivity, and livability. We also discussed operations and maintenance of TOD areas and Denver's transit systems.

Mobile Workshop - 24 Marijuana Land Use and Neighborhoods

The marijuana industry in Denver has been well-publicized and well-patronized. We learned how the City and County of Denver has responded to the industry's needs for retail and warehouse space. We saw first-hand how those needs have fit into local neighborhoods. We also visited a local grow facility and store to learn more about how communities are adapting to the industry. Finally we learned from City officials how zoning and land use laws are applied and implemented to regulate the industry.

Wednesday September 20

Workshop: Getting Real About Equity - Measuring What Matters

Everyone's talking about equity. But have we taken the time to define it? And how about tying it to actual budget decisions? This workshop gets real about equity by defining and quantifying it. We learned how to integrate equity into decision-making. We learned strategies to show policymakers and finance directors how resource decisions affect social disparities. Real stories from across the nation were cited: In Oakland equity metrics are included in a new infrastructure bond. We learned how the Oakland DOT define – and communicate – those metrics to evaluate its spending plans to build trust. We also learned how Memphis and Albuquerque are analyzing

the cost-of-living and the effects of reducing benefits of smart transportation. In Chicago, we learned how new eTOD tools help families with low incomes escape poverty.

Thursday September 21

Post-Conference Meetings with Denver based Developers investors of RTD and TOD

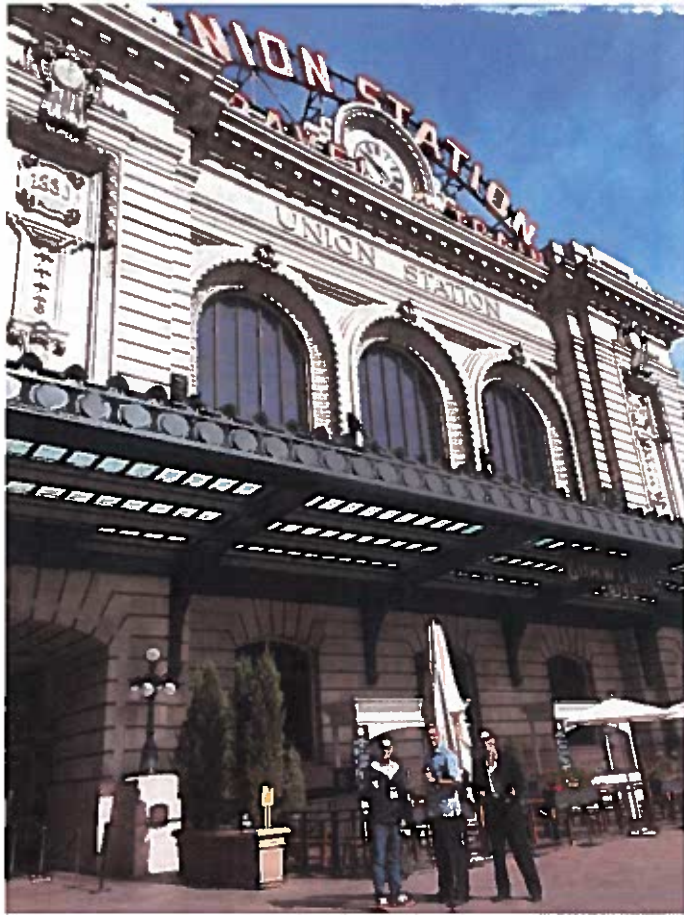
I had two separate meetings with the Developers of North Star Commercial Partners and Lendlease to discuss TOD financing structures. North Star is a real estate investment firm responsible for much of the redevelopment of Denver's Downtown TOD district. Lendlease is an Australian-based corporation with investments in Hawaii and in the US mainland. They expressed interest in developing affordable housing and revitalization projects in TOD areas as well as developing affordable housing on their Kunia property.



Mobile Workshop visit to the VA, major TOD catalytic project situated on the R line in Aurora.



With the group from Mobile Workshop for Equity tours of Aurora and Denver from the local residents' perspective.



Mobile Workshop hosted by *Move Oahu Forward* (MOF) with Councilmember Anderson and Vice Chair of MOF Stanford Carr at Union Station in Downtown Denver.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 9/25/2017

Traveler: Joey Manahan

Event: Rail-Volution 2017

Location: Denver, Colorado

Dates: From 9/16/2017 To 9/21/2017

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	720	
2. Airfare	949.62	
3. Hotel	2068.95	
4. Meals	61.59 55.59	
5. Ground Transportation	12.00 72.18	
6. Tips	15.12 21.12	
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	3887.96 2277.84	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

Signature of Traveler

Date

9/27/17